



Federal Emergency Management Agency

Laurence Zensinger: Acting Associate Director for Readiness, Response and Recovery Directorate

Laurence Zensinger was appointed Acting Associate Director for FEMA's Readiness, Response and Recovery Directorate in June 2002. In that position, he is responsible for planning and executing the federal government's response to major disasters and emergencies, as well as training, exercise and preparedness activities. He is also responsible for the multi-billion dollar Individual and Public Assistance Grant Programs.

Previously, Mr. Zensinger was responsible for the Recovery Division, where he implemented and developed policies for FEMA's Individual Assistance and Public Assistance Programs and oversaw the Fire Management Assistance program. Mr. Zensinger continues to serve as chair of the National Emergency Food and Shelter Board, a program which distributes more than \$140 million annually to battle homelessness, and is the executive in charge of the Cerro Grande Fire Recovery program, which is compensating victims of the Los Alamos fires that occurred in May 2000.

Mr. Zensinger's career with FEMA began in 1978 with the Federal Insurance Administration, then part of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. As a flood insurance specialist, Mr. Zensinger was instrumental in developing and implementing the first flooded property purchase and relocation program. He has also held such positions as Chief of the Hazard Mitigation Branch and Director of the Public Assistance and Program Coordination Divisions of the State and Local Programs Directorate, predecessor to the Response and Recovery Directorate.

Mr. Zensinger has also undertaken a variety of special assignments, including the coordination of the Midwest Flood Buyout program in 1993 and 1994 and serving as the Federal Coordinating Officer for the Northridge Earthquake in 1995.

A native of Jersey City, New Jersey, Mr. Zensinger is a graduate of Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Indiana, with a B.A. in earth sciences and of Southern Illinois University, with a master's degree in city planning.

Updated: June 2002

Distributed by the FEMA
Public Affairs Division

(202) 646-4600